

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of negotiated distribution of cache content, comprising steps of:
2 selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store; and
3 sending, to the cache store, a request message that describes the candidate content.
- 1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:
2 receiving a response message from the cache store, indicating whether the cache store
3 accepts or rejects the candidate content; and
4 distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if the response message indicates
5 that the cache store accepts the candidate content.
- 1 3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a response message received
3 from the cache store indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.
- 1 4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises analyzing
2 historical metrics to identify the candidate content.
- 1 5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the historical metrics represent content
2 requested over a period of time.
- 1 6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message describes the candidate

2 content's size.

1 7. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes the candidate
2 content's type.

1 8. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes a security
2 classification of the candidate content.

1 9. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes a hit rate of the
2 candidate content.

1 10. The method according to Claim1, wherein the selecting and sending steps are performed
2 at a Web server.

1 11. The method according to Claim1, wherein the cache store is selected using historical
2 metrics.

1 12. The method according to Claim1, wherein the candidate content is selected for
2 distribution to a plurality of cache stores, and wherein the sending step sends the request message
3 to each of the plurality of cache stores.

1 13. The method according to Claim2, further comprising the steps of:

2 selecting, when the response message indicates that the cache store rejects the candidate
3 content, an alternative cache store; and
4 sending the request message to the alternative cache store.

1 14. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message is encoded in a structured
2 markup language.

1 15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein the structured markup language is Extensible
2 Markup Language ("XML").

1 16. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the request message includes an identifier and
2 wherein this identifier is also included in the response message.

1 17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the distributing step uses the identifier to
2 locate the candidate content to be distributed.

1 18. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the candidate content comprises a plurality of
2 files to be distributed as a unit.

1 19. A system for negotiated distribution of cache content, comprising:
2 means for selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store;
3 means for sending, to the cache store, a request message that describes the candidate

4 content; and

5 means for distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a response message
6 received from the cache store indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.

1 20. A computer program product for negotiated distribution of cache content, the computer
2 program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for selecting candidate content for distribution to
4 a cache store;

5 computer-readable program code means for sending, to the cache store, a request message
6 that describes the candidate content; and

7 computer-readable program code means for distributing the candidate content to the cache
8 store only if a response message received from the cache store indicates that the cache store
9 accepts the candidate content.